

What is claimed is:

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1. A cushioning conversion machine for converting multi-ply sheet stock material into a cushioning dunnage product, comprising a stock supply assembly which supplies stock material to be converted, and a conversion assembly which draws the stock material from the stock supply and converts the stock material into a strip of cushioning, wherein the stock supply assembly includes a plurality of constant entry guides at an upstream end of the machine for passage of respective plies of stock material thereover.

2. A conversion machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the stock supply assembly includes a biased damper over which the multi-ply stock material can be trained before passage to constant entry guides.

3. A conversion machine as set forth in claim 2, wherein the stock supply assembly includes a plurality of separators between the constant entry guides and the conversion assembly.

4. A cushioning conversion machine for converting sheet stock material into a cushioning dunnage product, comprising a stock supply assembly which supplies stock material to be converted, a conversion assembly which draws the stock material from the stock supply and converts the stock material into a strip of cushioning, and a severing assembly for severing the strip of cushioning to form a pad, the severing assembly including a moving blade mounted for movement across a strip path between a retracted position and an extended position for cutting the strip, and a shutter movable with the moving blade for substantially blocking the strip path when the moving blade is in its extended position.

5. A conversion machine as set forth in claim 4, wherein the shutter has an upstream surface flush with an upstream surface of the moving blade.

6. A conversion machine as set forth in claim 4, wherein the shutter
5 and moving blade are both mounted to a blade holder.

7. A conversion machine as set forth in claim 6, wherein the blade holder is mounted for swinging movement relative to another blade that coacts with the moving blade to cut the strip.

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8. A method of converting multi-ply sheet stock material into a cushioning dunnage, comprising drawing the stock material from a stock supply and converting the stock material into a strip of cushioning, wherein at least two plies of the stock material are passed over respective different constant entry
15 rollers upstream of conversion components that convert the stock material into a strip of cushioning.

9. A conversion method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the multi-ply stock material is passes over a biased damper before passage to constant entry
20 guides.

10. A conversion method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the plies pass through or around a plurality of separators between the constant entry guides and the conversion components.

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11. A conversion method for converting sheet stock material into a cushioning dunnage product, comprising drawing sheet stock material from a stock supply, converting the stock material into a strip of cushioning, and cutting the strip of cushioning using a moving blade to cut the strip of cushioning,
30 wherein a shutter is moved in trailing relation to the moving blade to prevent

movement of a cut end of the strip from moving behind the moving blade as the moving blade slices through the strip of cushioning.

12. A conversion method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the cut end
5 of the strip of cushioning smoothly slides along upstream side surfaces of the moving blade and shutter.

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